



ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN
I, Rick Snyder, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim
May 18-24, 2015

MICHIGAN MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID WEEK

WHEREAS, good mental and behavioral health services are an essential part of an individual's well being and the overall wellness of the community; and,

WHEREAS, early intervention and prevention of mental health concerns and substance use disorders is proven effective and recovery from such issues is possible; and,

WHEREAS, preventing and overcoming mental and substance use disorders is essential to achieving healthy lifestyles and building a healthy community; and,

WHEREAS, it is known that one in five people will experience a mental health crisis this year, and given the serious nature of this public health problem, we must continue to reach out to everyone in our communities who needs help; and,

WHEREAS, we must encourage all of our citizens to learn more about mental health, implement early intervention measures, recognize the signs of a problem, intervene in an effort to prevent suicide and other traumatic events, and guide those in need to appropriate treatment and other support services; and,

WHEREAS, suicide is the second leading cause of death for young people between the ages of 10 and 24, and the second leading cause of death for 45 to 65 year olds; and,

WHEREAS, Mental Health First Aid is an evidence based program that will teach about mental health and substance use issues, will teach skills as to how to assist someone in a crisis, will reduce suicide and other traumatic events, and will aid in decreasing stigma about such concerns; and,

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Community Health has continued to increase Mental Health First Aid and Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings in our communities to ensure that as many individuals as possible are trained in Mental Health First Aid; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan has already trained 18,765 residents to identify the signs of a mental health issue and direct our friends, family, and loved ones into appropriate care; and,

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Education, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Community Health, will provide Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings for school personnel and other adults who interact with school-aged youth; and,

WHEREAS, proclaiming Mental Health First Aid week will further urge Michigan citizens to learn more about Mental Health First Aid, participate in activities, and enroll in a Mental Health First Aid Course to support mental health services in our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE I, Rick Snyder, Governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim May 18 through 24, 2015 as Michigan Mental Health First Aid Week.


Rick Snyder
Governor

